



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

September 27, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Observers

FROM: David Potter
Branch Chief, FSB

SUBJECT: Death of an Observer

We just learned of the death of a Fisheries Observer in Alaska. All the details are not in yet, but apparently the observer fell while attempting to board his assigned vessel. We can all agree that this is a sad event and is a stark reminder of the dangers involved with your job.

Please always be careful when boarding vessels. Dock ladders can be wet, slippery, and in poor repair and caution should always be exercised when boarding vessels. Crossing over from one vessel to another is also dangerous. Observers should always pass gear to someone else rather than crossing or boarding with gear in hand. It is always best to board when other people are present.

This is upsetting news for all of us and if you feel the need to discuss this further please contact any of us (numbers listed below) or your employer.

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